

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR A PROTECTED  
OPTICAL ACCESS RING NETWORK**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

An optical access network employs a ring topology in which connections between  
5 the network units and between the network units and the optical line terminal are via a  
protection switch. The protection switch monitors connections from the optical network  
units to detect a loss of signal and, on detecting a loss of signal from an optical network  
unit, switches the respective optical network unit out of the ring, thus maintaining  
continuity of the ring topology.